

During the eight years I served on the House Budget Committee, we had the only four years of balanced budgets since the 1960s. Unfortunately, over the last several years we have seen a return to large deficits. The budget passed this year by the Democrat-controlled Congress spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much. Many federal programs have been proven time and again to be ineffective, duplicative, and wasteful, yet Congress continues to spend the taxpayers' money on them. I believe that in tough times we need a freeze on non-defense, non-veterans spending, stronger budget enforcement tools, and a balanced budget. These are all steps that will make sure that Washington lives within its means.

With the national debt approaching \$11 trillion, our current fiscal situation is alarming enough. And the projected future growth of entitlement programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, poses an even greater challenge. The unfunded future liabilities of these programs are more than five times greater than our current debt. And on their present course, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will consume an ever-greater share of the federal budget until they crowd out everything else, from national defense, to roads and highways to assistance for the poor. Although solving this problem will not be easy, I believe Congress has a basic obligation to future generations to start tackling it now. Otherwise, we will bestow a crushing burden of debt to our children and grandchildren.

[[go back to "On the Issues" main page](#)]